

November 30, 1988

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Reclamation Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: Field Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

On November 30, 1988 Division staff members, Wayne Hedberg, Holland Shepherd and Scott Johnson met with members of Hecla Mining Corporation at the Escalante Silver Mine. The purpose of the site visit was to discuss the closure of the mining operation and the companies reclamation plans for the mine site. Division representatives met with Hecla Mining Company personnel, Mr. Scott Hartman, Mr. Bryan Johnson, John Leding, Ivan Hunt and Tanny Harlin.

Following introductions in the mine office, staff members were given a field tour by the operator wherein we looked at a number of the surface facilities which are scheduled for reclamation. The mine is scheduled for a December 30, 1988 closure. The mill will continue to function until 1990. There is approximately 2 years worth of stockpiled ore which will be processed following mine closure. However, should the tailings level begin to exceed the design capacity of the tailings impoundment, operations at the mill would be shut down and any remaining stockpiled ore, would be left on site for final reclamation.

The following surface facilities were examined during the tour:

- #1 the south vent raise,
- #2 the north vent raise,
- #3 the old shaft,
- #4 the old manway,
- #5 the decline,
- #6 the old shaft holes or old prospecting workings,
- #7 the drill holes and casing,
- #8 the south lift station,
- #9 the south canal (which is approximately 5 miles long),
- #10 are culverts,
- #11 the Jones Dike,

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- #12 the Holt Farm,
- #13 the north canal (which extends some 15 to 20 miles),
- #14 ore stockpiles,
- #15 the waste rock piles,
- #16 rubbish and associated scrap,
- #17 the tailings impoundment,
- #18 the existing mine buildings,
- #19 the mill.

Preliminary reclamation design details were discussed for each of the above mentioned facilities in the field with the operator.

Hecla Mining Company will submit a formal written proposal to the Division within a couple of days of the actual field visit. Division staff members committed to return a response on the technical adequacy of the proposed reclamation details to the operator within two weeks. The underground drilling and blasting will be completed in mid December. The operator wishes to utilize existing mine personnel to begin some of the reclamation work prior to the anticipated layoff of January 1, 1989.

Division staff members gave Hecla Mining Company the go ahead to begin some of the backfilling operations proposed for the south vent raise, the old shaft, and the old manway. Some of the old pre-law prospecting workings will also be backfilled with waste rock material. The operator was also told to proceed to plug existing drill holes with a minimum 5' concrete surface plug which would then be covered with topsoil and revegetated at a later date.

Mr. Hartman will submit a written proposal to the Division outlining the reclamation activities which the company hopes to complete by the end of the year. The Division advised the operator that final reclamation of certain facilities, may require consultation between the respective state and federal regulatory agencies, before an ultimate design may be approved for onsite implementation. The particular areas of concern for joint agency discussion include the tailings impoundment, the re-establishment of the regional aquifer, the ultimate disposition of the existing water wells, reclamation of the north and south canals and the final disposition of the Jones Dike.

jb  
cc: Scott Hartman, Hecla Mining Company  
Bryan Johnson, Hecla Mining Company  
Lowell Braxton  
Minerals Team  
MN2/22-23